

17 June 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH: Deputy Director (Intelligence)

SUBJECT: Use of National Estimates by U. S. Overseas Missions

PROBLEM:

1. To improve the use of and comments on national estimates by U. S. overseas missions and determine if any unnecessary delay attends overseas receipt of such intelligence

DISCUSSION:

2. Dr. Kent recently met with the undersigned and discussed his trip [redacted] With respect to the above problem, he mentioned that (1) all of the "right" people in overseas missions are not seeing the national estimates and (2) in some instances, there were indications that the time lag between approval of a national estimate and its receipt overseas is great.

3. OIC has checked the facts on six sample NIE's from the point of view of timing and we find that generally IAC agencies forward NIE's overseas in two weeks. Specifically, in this regard, General Gruenther had complained to Dr. Kent that [redacted] was "weeks" overdue. From the attachment, [redacted] was forwarded via air only twelve days after approval by Army as executive agent to Colonel Fickett (USNMR) and CINCEUR, either office should have supplied General Gruenther. Proofing and printing time accounts for most of the twelve days.

4. As far as the "right" people using and commenting on national estimates is concerned, a more important problem apparently exists. Dr. Kent has suggestions of individuals in the Foreign Service and the Services who, from his knowledge and experience, can effectively use and comment on national estimates. However, as such individuals and their relationships to the Chief of Mission or Commanding General varies from mission to mission, no pat across-the-board solution appears. There is no alternative to ad hoc discussions with State and the service agencies.

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RECOMMENDATIONS:

5. That we continue to depend on present arrangements under which each IAC agency forwards national estimates to its overseas missions

6. That this Office be authorized to discuss with State and the service agencies what might be done to insure that within the staff at the overseas missions the NIE's are promptly brought to the attention of officers who should have them and can usefully comment.

Dr. Kent. ONE, concurs in this paper.

JAMES Q. REBER
Assistant Director
Intelligence Coordination

Attachment

OIC: JQR/WRL/1b

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